

The only thing that stands between a man and what he wants from life is often merely the will to try it and the faith to believe that it is possible.

## Blue Mountains Camp 2003

By Priya (19), for the ANZO (Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania) JT board

**W**hen the idea for a senior teen seminar originated, it was a small get-together for the eight or so senior teens that we had in Australia. We had just finished a camp for 12- to 15-year-olds, and were looking forward to a simple, smaller-scale camp where we could share the Word with the STs, who were a remarkable sample of dedication. However, the Lord had other plans and before we knew it the attendee list had grown to 24, and included participants from three countries, and a wider age range than we had first planned for.

A huge thank-you to Angela, our incredibly gifted chairperson, without whom not even the idea of this camp would have materialized. We love you and are thankful beyond words for all you do and have done!

Back to the camp: It was held in the Blue Mountains outside of Sydney, Australia, for two weeks. We were privileged to have six attendees from Taiwan, and one from New Zealand. The entire camp was organized and run by a group of very dedicated on-fire young people and some amazingly new bottle FGAs, who were immensely helpful with their world of experience. As the baby of the group, I must say that I've never been more enthused to continue on with my professional discipleship than when I saw this brilliant team of YAs and SGAs and the amount of time, effort and love they poured into the teens—it was endless and unconfined.

Many of the attendees commented on how it was encouraging for them that the YAs and SGAs ran the camp. They told us that it was easier to be more open to us, as we are close to their age and have experienced similar things. It showed us SGAs and YAs how much it means to them to have us pouring into them and helping them through the tough times. It convicted us to keep giving them input and providing the positive



peer pressure to combat the intense trials and tests that they face daily.

The Lord supplied so much to make this camp possible. He came through on every detail. He supplied wonderful accommodations, daily use of a gym and pool, and beautiful weather for this normally cold season. Another big thank-you to Rose in Melbourne who worked tirelessly provisioning the smallest and largest of things, and who truly took the Lord at His Word and showed us just how indisputably nothing is impossible to Him!

The classes came together even though we felt we were pretty unorganized, the Lord clearly anointed the people leading the classes, and spoke through them. Even if at times He led us to completely change the subject matter right before the class was scheduled!

When it came down to it, prayer was what won the victories in the lives of each of the young people. The importance of getting desperate was a lesson we all had to learn. We also saw the need for discipline; the heartcry of many of them was for boundaries and discipline. The first week was pretty discouraging, as we didn't know if we were hitting the mark, but we found as we became militant in the spirit through prayer and fighting against the Enemy that that was when the victories were won.

Another triumph and something that encouraged us greatly was the fact that a lot of the young people who didn't have the gift of prophecy received this special gift during the camp. An answer to our prayers! Some of the FM and

CM young people made a conscious decision to be in the Family and give it their 100%. Our blood, sweat, and tears paled in comparison to the results. It surely was worth it all!

Time and space would fail me to tell of the adventure that this experience was—the fun, the activities, the convicting classes, and the unforgettable people who touched our lives each in their unique way. I had a brilliant time and was beyond glad to be a part of the Blue Mountains Camp 2003. To sum it up, unity, love and encouragement worked wonders in the lives of each of these young people. Showing unconditional love melted us together and made them realize that we genuinely cared and wanted each of them to be there.

If I could only write one line it would be this: Never give up on our teens! They need each and every one of you, and *you* can make a difference for the better in their lives! Just resolve to never give up on them, for it is that steadfast determination to hold on to them, and bring them to the Lord, that will win this vital battle for their souls and lives.

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# activated news

## Offered something special

By Mark Bulgarian, Croatia

One day when we were out promoting the *Activated* magazines we met Sandra, who was working at a bar. The moment she saw the "Somebody Loves You" tract she said: "Somebody gave me this tract a few months ago. I was going through hard times in my life at that moment and as I started to read it I felt that it was written just for me."

Sandra wanted to subscribe to *Activated*, but she didn't have the money on hand, but the next time we met her, she happily signed up for a year's subscription.

Another time we met a man selling fruit on the street. We talked with him about life and God, and he told us that he felt the presence of God while we were together with him. We showed him the *Activated* mags and asked him if he'd like to subscribe, which he did on the spot. He also gave us a kilo of bananas without even asking him for that. Then he told us that a few days earlier he read a horoscope in a book that today he would be visited by two people offering him something special!

## Following God's voice on a rainy day

By Simon Simple, India

It happened on a rainy monsoon day exactly one year ago. My outreach partner and I were stranded in a tiny local phone booth in town working our way through our card files, and calling everyone we could think of. It was rapidly becoming one of those "Now why didn't I stay in bed?" days! Everyone we were trying to contact was either in a meeting, or out of town.

The situation was, in a word, bleak!

Finally, we prayed and asked the Lord what to do. His answer was unusual. "Go into the third building from the left."

"You mean, like, go out in the rain type of thing and get our shoes wet, Lord? Oh, all right!"

Off we went, but when we entered the building in question, I have to admit I really began wondering about my channel. It was a dilapidated, rundown building with *paan* (betel nut) stains on the walls. (Chewing *paan* and spitting out the juice is a widespread but less than endearing habit here in the subcontinent.)

One flight, two flights ... no signs of life.

"Just keep going!"

"Lord, this is nuts..."

Third floor. We opened the door and a room full of computers greeted us! We stepped in and were greeted by a short, elderly man who listened attentively to us as we breathlessly began, "Good afternoon, sir. We are from a voluntary organization called The Family. ..." We went on to tell him about the "Mottos."

After he had heard us out, he said, "How many 'Mottos' do you have in that bag?"

"Fifteen!"

"I'll take them all! How much?"

I quoted the price but quickly added, "But we'll

be happy to give you a discount!"

"I don't want a discount! I want to help your work!" he replied, and took all 15 "Mottos"! He also signed up for *Activated* and when we went to see him a couple of months later, he said: "Your magazine has converted me!"

Coming from a 70-year-old person, that was quite a statement! We continued to follow up on dear Mr. K. the rest of the year, and every time he would buy "Mottos" from us.

This dear man absolutely loves the *Activated* magazine and all the Word we give him. Every single time we go to see him, he sweetly gives us a generous donation.

*in My arms...*

(Written by Michael [SGA], Kenya:) Steve (15, of Andrew and Lily) passed away at 9:45 AM, on August 19, 2003. His passing was a quick and peaceful one, just like

our whole Family had been praying for. It was amazing, as we realized that he had been on his feet just two days before passing away, so he didn't have to suffer in the way of being bed-ridden for too long, TYJ!

On the morning that he passed away, he was having trouble breathing, and it would come in short bursts. He would stop breathing, then start again. This repeated itself about four times, and then, during his last breath, a lone tear fell from his eye, and then he went. Meanwhile, outside, a beautiful sailboat glided by, symbolic of his "passing over"; a lone butterfly also fluttered past the window at the moment of his passing, making it all very beautiful and touching.

None of us could contain our tears, as we all missed Steve very much at that moment. But in retrospect, we're very thankful that he had finally finished the race, and had gone to the place where there would be no more suffering, no more pain, and definitely no more chemotherapy! Steve was such a fighter, and fought for so long, and for so hard, never complaining, but taking it bravely, cheerfully, and courageously!

(*Steve speaking:*) There is so much relief for me here, and the joy I feel is overwhelming it just makes me cry. I wish so much that you could see and feel a portion of what I feel.

The Lord has already allowed me to begin my mission, and not many start right away, but the Lord knew the prep that He had put me through before, and so He told me that I could start right away. This was a dream come true, actually everything is a dream come true!

Everyone here comes up to me and starts commending me for a job well done, and how I have really fought and run the race, but I feel so funny and so unworthy, especially when it's coming from heroes like Joan of Arc and William Wallace. It sure humbles me and makes me all the more thankful for what the Lord put me through. It makes me thankful that I had a wonderful family and brothers and sisters like you to help me through it, because I don't think I could have made it without all that prayer and love.

There was nothing more that I wanted than to be with you and help you. I was asked what I would like to explore and do [now that I'm up here], and the first thing I said, was that I wanted to be with my family.—I wanted to be with you! I love you so much. I hope the little I said shows you how much I love you and how near I am. Love always, Steve (*End of message.*)

[*Editor's note: Don't miss the beautiful testimony of Steve's Homegoing, and a message the Lord gave on Steve's unique calling here on Earth! Coming in the next Grapevine.*]

## "Just get Activated!"

By Michaela, South Africa

While out witnessing we often get wonderful responses from people who take *Activated* on a regular basis. People are getting to know what it is and really appreciate it. Ms. Travis said, "It's something you can leave out on your table and read again and again. People buy these other magazines, and they just read them once and put them away. But this

is something that you can pick up any time and it will always have something new for you. People should stop getting the other magazines and just get *Activated* instead!"

Another man came to our regular witnessing spot and wanted the next *Activated* mag because he wanted to finish reading the second half of the 14 [Endtime] major points! We also meet a lot of people

who read their relatives' or friends' mags and enjoy it, and then want their own.

Recently I met a man on outreach at our weekend witnessing spot. He said he always takes an *Activated* mag whenever he comes, and that there is always something good inside each one of them.

There's a waitress who works inside the restaurant near our table who's also been taking *Activated* mags

regularly. Then she went on maternity leave and was gone for a few months.

The next time I saw her working she said, "Oh yes, I'll take one today!" and was very inspired about them. Then the other week she took another one and said, "I'll read it today right after work, there's something about these mags, they make you feel different!" It's amazing to see the change the Word has made in her!

## CVC Notices

By the WS FED team

### 1. Availability of CVC reading items for FM students

In 1997, *LNF #256* announced that TS CVC students were granted permission, when visiting a DO Home, to read the DO pubs on the CVC reading lists, which pertain to certificates they are pursuing.

However, this permission is now changed slightly. Since MLs through Vol. 24 are now available for FMers, a good part of the reading material for CVC courses is now available to them. If FM CVC students wish to read material pertaining to the courses they are studying that is "CM only," they may do so when they visit a CM Home—with the exception of the reading material for REL CS-15, and any other CVC courses which will be marked as "CM only."

The original counsel in *LNF #256* still applies (revised, DO and TS changed to CM and FM; ending in italics added):

CM Homes should require the CVC Student Card as proof, before permitting FMers access to the appropriate CM pubs. This permission does not give FM CVC students across-the-board permission to read all CM pubs, but *only* those pubs which pertain to the CVC certificates [they] are working on (or which [they] are otherwise eligible for according to ... the Charter), *with the exception of the reading material for REL CS-15 and any other CVC courses which will be marked as "CM only."*

Future enrollment plans for the CVC include a formal letter to be issued to enrolling CVC students indicating what courses they are working on. When this comes into effect, a copy of this enrollment letter should be shown to the CM Home as indication of which reading material the FM student is entitled to.

### 2. Availability of CVC CDs

In the article "Our Modern Education" in *GV #158*, the statement was made: "Each CM Home is entitled to the two CVC CDs." This was originally the case when the CVC CDs were produced at the end of 1999. One copy was sent for free to each CM Home, and additional ones were available for free for CM CVC students from age 14–18. However, since that time, the original supply has run out, many area CVC offices are duping them and sending them to those who request them, charging a minimum for duping and mailing.

We're sorry that these CDs are no longer available for free to the CM Homes, but we hope that the minimum charge will not hinder people from ordering them. You can contact your area CVC office concerning ordering copies of the CDs.

The CVC CDs are also available online at <http://www.cvc@cvcollege.com>. Use your MO site password to enter the "Student Center" where the CDs are located.

Please also keep in your prayers the production of updated CVC CDs, as since the publishing of *CVC Handbook 2000* and the CVC CDs, there have been a multitude of reading items, and many new courses added to the CVC (including updates on the High School diploma programs, as per "Charter Amendments 2003" [GN 1033], and announcements in *GV #157* and *159*). We pray we'll be able to make this available to you as soon as possible. We need your key-powered prayers and support. Thank you!

To contact your CVC office, see addresses in *GV #152* or on the MO site: CC/FED section, QnAs. [www.familymembers.com/fed/qna/index.php?fqid=10](http://www.familymembers.com/fed/qna/index.php?fqid=10).

### 3. Addendum to General High School announcement in *GV #159*

The CVC courses listed in *CVC Handbook 2000* are being redefined in accordance with the new Vocational High School (VHS) and General High School (GHS) diploma requirements. You will be informed soon as to which courses now apply to VHS and which apply to GHS.

As a general rule, credits for courses that indicate study material for lower than Grade 10 will no longer be counted towards a General High School diploma. Credits for courses that indicate study material for lower than Grade 9 will not be counted towards a Vocational High School diploma.

**CVC VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS NOW AVAILABLE! CONTACT YOUR CVC IC OR YOUR REGIONAL FED BOARD FOR TESTING TIMES AND PLACES.**

### kidbits

Miguel Franciszek, born to Melanie and Pawel on May 13.—Brazil

Jaden Reef, 3<sup>rd</sup> child born to Debbie and Tim on June 5.—USA

Kiana Nicole, 15<sup>th</sup> child born to Heidi and Gideon on June 16.—

Pakistan

Martin Follower, born to Mary Dear and Paul, on June 29.—

Denmark

Leilani Evermore, 1<sup>st</sup> child born to Marianne on July 12.—USA

Baby, born to Esther and Mark on July 23.—Hungary

Patrick Christian, born to Eden and Christian, on July 24.—Romania

Kaylica, 1<sup>st</sup> child, born to Melissa on July 25.—USA

Sylver Lli, born to Regina and Jesse on August 12.—WS



Dove  
Sarah  
Rejoice  
Becky  
Sam  
Sarah

## “Being a Professional!” —Iyouth CP Retreat

By Carina (of Mark), India

We just returned from a three-day retreat hosted by the South India CP board. It was the many prayers, and the donations of different Homes and friends, that made the retreat for the thirty-six mothers and CC workers from the six cities in our southern area possible. This retreat had been in the prayer and planning stage for over a year. Special thanks to the Bangalore brethren, who went the extra mile to help pull it off.

The theme was “Being a Professional!” This retreat was a call to arms for us, from the keynote prophecy read by Dove (regional CP chairperson) and Sarah Ireland (international CP chairperson) to a challenging class given by Mark (CO, JT chairperson) called “Living the Life,” they encouraged us to do our best to meet the needs of our children and youth. Mark’s very stirring class was inspired by his interactions with the second and third generation.

Renee from the FED RC and Promise (regional FED chairperson) spent an afternoon of show and tell and taking orders of all the beautiful material—books, CDs, interactive local language programs, India-created Montessori equipment, copies of different pictures of Jesus, kids’ prophecy vitamins, etc.

We had a night of Loving Jesus, and an evening where we were able to have personal prophecy time for the children in our Homes. We made prayer teams, where the ones who didn’t have children of their own were paired up with bigger families to help get prophecies for the children. This time was beautiful and unifying.

The three-day re-TREAT ended with an evening meeting where we had a good round of prayer and personal requests, which we did in small groups. Sarah Ireland, visiting from Thailand, read the closing prophecy.

Everyone filled in a questionnaire, from which we are gleaning good tips and ideas, and were also able to find out what the main needs of the Homes in our area are.

The CP board made a CD with all the Word on CC and different CC materials from the MO site, as well as from the local CP and ASCRO FED available for all the Homes. All the attendees received a beautiful booklet with all the class notes and extra reading materials.

## reactions from the attendees:

**Crystal (of Ashok):** I came here as a layperson, somewhat disoriented in my calling as a parent/teacher, and I am returning a professional parent/teacher! This retreat has been a super blessing in renewing my vision about my priorities, and it has also put things in the right perspective.

**Rachel:** This retreat has given me a renewed challenge and commitment for childcare and parenting. Initially I was a little discouraged thinking, *Where have I been?* And knowing that I have a long ways to go can get me down. But realizing that the Lord is working with us through all this, and that this is not a road I am meant to walk alone, but My love and My Husband are meant to walk with me—two-gether. Actually three-gether—Me, My Husband, and my husband! Ha!

## Iyouth india jett camp

By David (13, of Mark and Faithy), India

From June 24–28 we had a fun and exciting Word/nature camp for all the JETTs in the South India area. Twenty-nine JETTS came for the four-day camp, which was complete with inspiring Word classes and a fun two-day camping trip in the mountains.

The camp took place in Kodaikanal—a hill station in the mountains of Tamil Nadu. The teams arrived at the camp in the pouring rain at around 5PM. The organizers divided us into eight teams, and we were assigned to our rooms with our room shepherds. We gathered for dinner at 7PM, and before we ate we read the keynote prophecy for the camp, where the Lord implored us to learn all that we could during these days, as time was short.

That same evening we gathered at the meeting hall for an opening meeting, where we covered what we could expect to happen at the camp and what was the standard they could expect from us. After the meeting was over, we had a snack and went to bed.

The next morning we got up and had P&P time. After breakfast and JJT we gathered for a class. After a inspiring and rocking inspiration and praise time, Beth gave us a cool class on discipleship in the Family, and what is to be expected of us in the future of the Family! It was a great shock and honor to read it and find out that we *are* the future!

That afternoon we had another class called “Destiny Defined!” given by Premika. It was based on three questions: “Do we have a destiny?” “If we do, how do we find out what it is? How do we accomplish it?” It was an eye-opener to find out that we were given a destiny before the beginning of time, and it is up to us to fulfill it or the Lord will have to find someone else to do our job if we don’t! We had a short break and then had another class on the Word.

At the end of the classes, we were told that we were going camping the next day! We were divided into two teams (as 30 people is a lot for one trip), and told what to take for the hike. We were given our camp memory work, which reads as follows:

I am a disciple and I’m proud of it. I am willing to train, willing to learn, willing to adapt, and willing to progress. I look forward with excitement to what’s ahead, knowing all the training I receive will make me more skilled, trained, and better able to do my job. As a disciple I agree to give up certain things that would distract me and hinder me from doing my job.

I accept that there will be sacrifices to make, and I’m willing to make these sacrifices, even if they are difficult. I understand I’m making these sacrifices for the Lord, my Commander in Chief, for my loved ones, and for the lost souls that need my time, attention, prayer, focus and love. I’m willing to give up some of the treasures and pleasures of this life in order to gain the spiritual riches and rewards that the Lord has promised me in the life to come.

As a disciple I’m banking on the Lord. I’m trusting in His promises. I’m not merely laying up for myself treasures on Earth, or making efforts towards popularity and fame. I’m living my life by faith, holding onto the Lord’s promise that though I may suffer rejection, and though I may lack some of the trinkets and gadgets that are on display all around me, I’m holding out for something better. I’m holding out for the eternal riches of Heaven—the eternal glory, the gold and silver that will last forever!

Not only were we to memorize the above quotes to recite on the last day of the camp, but we also divided into teams and were

Steven (YA)  
Mark  
Tim  
Alysa  
Crystal  
Cassy (16)  
Carina



**Faith:** This retreat has been God's love for me—a time of rest in His arms, a time to be strengthened through His Word, the different meetings, prayer, and fellowship with other parents and teachers. It was most of all a time to recommit to be not only a professional disciple, but also a professional mother, and to change my negative attitudes for positive ones.

**Rejoice (of Andrew):** I am so, so thankful for the Lord's love and the CP board's vision for us parents and mothers to have this retreat. It made a world of difference to me to have this time away from my ministry. I feel re-envisioned and changed from my old ways of operating, now that I have more of the Lord's vision of being a professional in my ministry.

supposed to come up with a creative way of presenting it, by turning it into a poem, a song, rapping it, making a play of it, etc.—The best one would win a prize.

The next morning we had an inspiring Bible class with Uncle Ho on Bible chronology and the Rapture! We ate lunch early as the first team headed off for camping. We had an extra long get-out, and then we had a fun baking class where we made cookies, rolls, and breads. We each received a paper to fill out on what the baking was about, which we could then add to our portfolios.

The next day we had a neat witnessing

class. We read a spirit story about some JETTs who went on a road trip witnessing. We learned some good lessons on personal witnessing, and we made a commitment to each win at least 30 souls in the next three months. When we calculated it, it added up to 900 souls in three months for the JETTs! It showed us how each of us can make a difference and change our part of the world.

Around lunchtime the first team arrived back from camping. The second team ate lunch and left for the campsite. When we arrived at the camp, we went on a treasure hunt to find the campsite. It was fun. We went

preparing breakfast



for a hike and saw a lot of wildlife, including a wild buffalo! We ate around the big fire, sang some songs, and a few of adults told us their life stories. Then we slept in tents under the starry sky.

The following afternoon after returning from camping, we all got together to recite our memory work. Team 1 was the winning team! After that, we read a farewell prophecy from Jesus, in which He told us to take to heart all that we had learned, and to continue to grow in the Word. Then we all got our camp certificates and a personal prophecy from Jesus for each one of us. As we each stepped up to get our certificates, we each gave a small reaction about the camp and what we learned, what we liked, and what we wanted to take back with us. Then, after a delicious dinner, we closed the camp with a fun dance/talent night.

It was an extraordinary camp and we are looking forward to moving on with Jesus and to a lot more fun camps!

## OPEN HOUSE—PERSECUTION PREP THE EASY WAY!

By Gideon and Rachel, South Africa

When we recently moved, the Lord showed us that we should invite all the new neighbors to our house, so that they could know all about us, the Family, from the beginning. We sent around invitations to every house close to us, about 20. In the invitation we explained that we were a Christian community called the Family and that we homeschool our children. We invited them to come and learn all about our work and about us. We mentioned homeschooling because that can be an issue with neighbors if they never see your children going to school. We also included a brochure about the Family, which explains about who we are, and our work in Africa. This way we reasoned that even if nobody came they would at least know the basics, which should put their minds at rest and show how open we are should something come up in the media later.

We put up a sign outside our house as soon as we moved in saying "The Family," which is there permanently, and advertised the open house on a blackboard

at the gate. We also told everyone the children would perform at 3 PM. We had a wonderful time with the neighbors who did come around, and they were fascinated by our lives and loved the children's performance.

When the children were performing "The Spirit of Africa," one of the mothers exclaimed, "Where does that song come from? They are singing in my language!" That was pretty amazing, because you don't meet many Ugandans here, which is where the Family recorded these songs. It was the Lord's setup to touch her heart, and she turned out to be a real sheep and wants to stay in touch and have her daughter perform with our children.

We also gave out *Activated* at the end, and gave them a deep witness and shared all about homeschooling, as one family in particular is considering taking their child out of school to educate him at home. It was a great success, and we feel happy that we have introduced ourselves, the work, and most importantly, the Family, to the neighborhood, which is all excellent persecution prep. Why not give it a try in your neighborhood?

The next day, we invited some sheep around for a *braai* (barbeque). They were a midget, a strong woman, and her partner, whom Chris and Meg had met and witnessed to on their trip to Qatar. We wanted to share about who we are in a deeper way. We have found that the easiest way to do this is to have some "oldsters" like us (Gideon and Rachel) share our testimony and then when you get to the bit about joining the Family, you say, "Of course in those days the Family was called the Children of God." Sometimes you get a reaction, sometimes you don't, but at least it is out there, so to speak!

Well, we did get a reaction! Anthea, the strong woman, who is also beautiful and a radical Christian who hates the churches, said, "Can I ask more about the COG, as I have read some very negative articles about them years ago?" We were able to answer her questions, and it turned out that she and her mother had prayed to receive the Lord with the COG in Germany 20 years ago. Her comment at the end was, "How refreshing!" She is eating up *Activated*, and wants more, more, more!

# NOTHING else will COMPARE!

BY SHARON (OF CRIS), USA

I have wanted to write this testimony for a while now, because lately I have been seeing that there are a few folks who think, for one reason or another, that it's okay to go out on their own and make money. They think they have figured out a new way to serve the System *and* follow the Lord. Ours is a testimony of exactly that!

We (Cris and myself) did not think we were about to embark on a dangerous journey so long ago, but we soon found out we were on the wrong path. In some cases it's okay to get a job for a specific purpose for a short time, but the problem is that the short time can slide into months and years of wasted time.

We used to read Dad's testimonies about the times that he took himself out of God's will, or others' testimonies about working for the System and making money to put "in a bag with holes" (Hag. 1:6). But somehow we thought we could do it the right way. What is it about human nature that makes us think that we can save ourselves?

We were in Costa Rica after the RNR in 1976. We were pretty discouraged after having been "fired" by Dad, which happened to most people who were involved in the arm-of-the-flesh "chain." We found ourselves living in a little trailer with our three little kids and another couple and their son, and money was really tight. We were having a rough time of making a living; trying to go to hotels to witness, trying to FF, but nothing really panned out. We were pretty desperate, and felt condemned and unloved. We should have

seen the Enemy's tactics, to make us think that the Lord and our brethren had forsaken us, but we just *allowed* our vision to be clouded, and we *allowed* our focus to get totally off the Lord. Then we all had the "bright idea" to return to the States, and maybe buy a trailer and return to Central America.

Right after the RNR the Family continued to go through major changes together. There was a lot of sexual freedom at that point, much without too much wisdom and love; nevertheless, it was something we came through and matured because of it. But when we passed through Homes that were involved in such partying, we kind of got "offended" by it, which the Enemy used to alienate us from Dad, Mama, and the Family. Again, we *allowed* our focus to get away from the Word.

So there we were, by ourselves, positive we could do things the right way, and also subconsciously distancing ourselves from Dad, Mama, the Word and the Family. I am bringing these little things out, because it is always the "little things" that the Enemy uses. Actually, it is the tainted way in which he tries to paint situations to try to drive a wedge in between us and our brethren, to make us believe that we are unloved or unneeded, so we might as well "disappear"—nobody would care anyway. I think at this point a sweet brother even invited us to a Home somewhere, but we declined.

We traveled up to Ohio, and Cris got a job as a shoe salesman, and we settled down in an apartment. He was an instant success with his boss. Well, of course he

was—he had faithfulness and diligence training from Dad and the Word! We were really in unfamiliar territory, living like worldly people, but we had it all justified, thinking maybe we could somehow get a trailer and return to the field. However, every time we started thinking about the Family, these yucky feelings from the Enemy would creep in, about how "wild" and "tripped off" everything was, compounded by the lie that "nobody loved us." The kids were okay, because they were still young, and, we reasoned, they didn't realize that we were living in the System. But as time went by, as we continued to live by ourselves with no Family inspiration time, Daddy always gone to work, and bombarded by TV, System neighbors and relatives, the children's inspiration level waned, and in our hearts we knew it.

We bought a trailer and moved into it, but soon I found out I was pregnant, and at the same time, Cris "graduated" from selling shoes to selling cable TV. This gave us more money, but instead of loading up the trailer and getting to the field, we sold the trailer, and moved into a house. We reasoned: "Why do we have to work so hard for a living on the mission field, when it is so 'easy' to get what we need this way?"

By this time, we figured that since we were in a suburban subdivision, we'd better stick the kids in public school, so we did. They did well. Of course they did!—They had always had good, Word-based Family school, with people who loved them. System teachers made such a fuss over

them, calling them gifted, which they were—gifted with the gifts of the Spirit, intelligence from the Lord. The principal of that school asked me to teach pre-school, even though I had no credentials, so I did.

So there we were, we had our nice suburban house with its matching furniture, our two cars, nice clothes, etc. But everything was not so "perfect." One day I heard a neighbor screaming out my name, and as I ran outside, I saw Jeremy (then age five) flat on his back in the street. He was riding his bike and was hit by a car! Everything went in slow motion as we rushed him to the hospital. Thoughts of the Lord and how we were failing Him flooded our minds—we were so desperate! However, we were not desperate enough to put our lives in His hands again. Thank the Lord Jer just had a broken leg, as it could have been much worse.

One Saturday, we got a knock at the door and there was a Jehovah's Witness going house to house in our neighborhood. I was polite to him, but it seemed like he kept pressing me about what I was doing with my life. I kept saying, "I am doing okay. I am teaching at a Christian school." But he kept saying, "Yeah, but *what* are you doing *today*—right now?" He really kept at it! This was no ordinary witness from a church guy—it was like the voice of the Lord! A little too close for comfort! I told Cris what the guy said to me, and he said, "Well, *are* we really serving the Lord?"

I felt pretty ashamed. Here we were being "witnessed to" by a Jehovah's Witness.

Time passed and Cris continued working, he got promoted and became a big cheese marketing director for a big cable company in the Rio Grande Valley, hiring salesmen, having a huge budget to spend, and we were pretty sucked in to the comfortable lifestyle. We had had no communication with the Family, but in the back of our minds we were pretty concerned about future Endtime events, etc. We wondered how the kids would end up. They were so bright, but where were they headed? Did we want to stick them in some college so they could study hard and become really good Systemites? Was that what we wanted to encourage them to do? I think that was the main thing that most shook us up.

Jude (age seven at the time) would say stuff like, "Mom, remember the Family? Remember we used to live in the Family in Costa Rica?" "Remember we used to speak Spanish?" Ha!

At that point, things started to unravel for Cris at work. A woman he worked with suddenly became so jealous of his accomplishments that she virtually turned into a little devil, falsely accusing him of things, and generally making his life hell. No matter how hard he tried to befriend her, she got even worse, even lying to his boss about him. It was at that point (actually on the day of our anniversary) that we started to get down to business with the Lord. We had planned to stay at a hotel to celebrate it, and have a big dinner out, but right in the middle of everything, all we could see was the Bible on the bedside table! We packed up, ran to the video store and rented *Jesus of Nazareth*, dismissed the babysitter, and watched the movie with the kids.

Cris decided to quit his job at the cable company, and I would continue teaching school. Then the principal of my school asked Cris to

teach high school, and we took that as being from the Lord. We began getting into the Word again, pulling out the old Letters we had stuck in the closet. At the school, we dragged out our guitars again. I would come to Cris' class every morning to have devotions with him and his class. We taught the kids every Family song we knew. We even taught the class to Gypsy dance outside in the front of the school. The teens in Cris' class would say, "Hey, can we sing 'Gypsy Caribbean' again?" Ha! It felt so good to obey the Lord again!

At that point, we were not making enough money to rent a house, so the principal invited us to move in with her in her large house, which we did. She was pretty churchy, so we were a little nervous about how it would work. At school Cris was giving the kids in his class a real witness about the Endtime and discipleship, which they loved! All the little students in my preschool class prayed together to receive the Lord. The principal initially loved the reaction that Cris got from the kids, but when our doctrine didn't jibe with Oral Roberts and her churchy pre-Trib beliefs, she started to get upset, insisting that he stop the Endtime stuff, which of course he could not do too well. (She ended up making Cris stop teaching Bible prophecy altogether, and made everyone sit there and listen to Oral Roberts' tapes amidst all the kids' bored moans and groans.) Churchy doctrines could not begin to compare to the freedom of the Spirit that we had—and it was so obvious.

Because we were spending a lot more time in the Word, the Word was literally bringing us back to life. We would read the kids full-length MO Letters, even though they were so little, and they loved it. At one point, we read "Bewitched" (ML #291), and the kids were like, "Hey that

sounds just like Mrs. Y." Ha! (Mrs. Y. was the lady principal we were living with). We were starting to remember what our life's mission was, TTL.

Shortly after that point, we realized again that the Lord was trying to get us to put our lives totally back in His capable Hands once more. So we bought a little trailer and lived by faith again by ourselves until the Lord miraculously ran us into Family members, and we rejoined.

I look at ourselves now, and our "second set" of kids, and we don't seem to look much different from the way we were back then, 20 years ago. We still don't have stocks and bonds and

IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts) that we have accumulated that our kids can inherit. We don't even have a house—just a little pop-up. But what we *can* pass on is our heritage of faith, our obedience to the Word shown to us by Dad, Mama and Peter, and the spirit which will endure long, long after all these other things have passed away.

It is true that if you have been called to this life, nothing else will completely satisfy you again. You may think you may have a new "angle" to "improve" on things, but anything that is not *from* the Word and *for* the Word will not succeed.

## "letters to the editor"

**Re: "Deliverance," (ML #3455; GN 1039)**

**Anonymous female, Pacific:** The GN "Deliverance" is so power packed and unbelievably full of counsel for deliverance for almost every weakness and sin. It constantly amazes me how the Lord is willing to help us through our problems even when we have strayed so far.

There is a small section on "Seduction and Obsession," which talks about lust and selfishness. In there the Lord says that if you want to overcome you need to "turn your thoughts toward others and Me and My love. . . . The point is to try to live My Law of Love, which is not focusing on yourself and what you want. It's taking others into consideration, and looking to Me and what I would have you do" (para. 167).

I wanted to share an example of this in my life. I recently went through a fairly bad relationship with a married man. I became very selfish, wanting him and his attention and love continually, and resenting his wife when he chose to spend time with her instead of me.

When the Lord asked me to give up this relationship, it seemed almost impossible for me. I constantly had to call on the keys just to get through the day and not fall apart. It was miraculous how the Lord picked me up every time I called out for help, but I still kept getting hit with resentment against this man's wife.

When I asked the Lord how to get the victory, He told me to pray for her. From then on whenever I started feeling selfish, resentful toward her and getting the "poor-mes" I would pray for her—for her health, her children, her safety, and the hardest one of all, her marriage.

At first it was hard because it went completely against how I felt, but it seemed to dissipate the resentment and jealousy instantly, and would leave me feeling very peaceful and content. Even a short sincere prayer would do the trick. It gave me the faith that the Lord had everything under control.

**Re: Break Away (TCD #27)**

**Mari, Brazil:** I loved the CD *Break Away*. The music was so fun, and I enjoyed the songs a lot. I'd like to thank Vas for singing "His Rays." It's beautiful! All of the songs are wonderful, but I loved this song especially. When my friends and I sing together we sing that song; it's so cool!

Thanks, Vas! Keep singing these cool songs for us; we enjoy them. A big kiss to all the band. God bless you guys!

# FORUM

## MY NAME IS GOSSIP!

My name is Gossip.  
I have no respect for justice.  
I maim without killing. I break hearts  
and ruin lives.  
I am cunning, malicious and gather  
strength with age.  
The more I am quoted, the more I am  
believed.  
I flourish at every level of society.  
My victims are helpless. They cannot  
protect themselves against me  
because I have no name and no  
face.  
To track me down is impossible. The  
harder you try, the more elusive I  
become.  
I am nobody's friend.  
Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never  
the same. I topple governments  
and wreck marriages. I ruin careers  
and cause sleepless nights,  
heartaches and indigestion. I  
spawn suspicion and generate  
grief. I make innocent people cry in  
their pillows. Even my name hisses.  
I am called Gossip.  
Office gossip, shop gossip, party  
gossip, telephone gossip. I make  
headlines and headaches.  
Remember, before you repeat a story,  
ask yourself: Is it true? Is it fair? Is  
it necessary?? If not, do not repeat  
it. Keep quiet.

—Ann Landers

*Sent in by Iris, Brazil  
(from Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul II)*

### **It belongs to the Family**

**FGA male, Africa:** The Brazil Letters have opened a real revelation to me.— Not that the Lord has ceased to be a disciplinarian, and that there are definite consequences to sin, but a revelation as to the fact that even though you may go off to some far corner of the world and pioneer according to your floated faith, that Home that you built with your blood, sweat, tears and personal preferences, still *does not belong to you!* To me this has been a real eye opener.

With the Charter and the day of following your faith and choosing your team (or lack of it), I think the attitude has developed that we are merely a loose fellowship of independent communities (as some of our PR material states [omitting “loose”]). While this is loosely the case, in reality we are not, which for me this Brazil event is

**M**y Law of Love is based on one principle, and one principle alone—that you should love God with all your heart and all your soul, and love your neighbor as yourself. This is the sieve that I would have you pass all your words through. Is it loving the Lord and is it loving others? For unless it passes through with flying colors, then I say, hold back. Hold your tongues.

I know it's going to be a difficult road for many of you, for your tongues have been so loose and it's become such a habit, such an addiction, that it'll be difficult to break. It'll take reminders from others. It'll take checking yourself.

bringing to light. What I have learnt from this (among many other things) is that the Home I may open is not mine—but belongs to the Family as long as I wish to remain in the Family. I can't just say I want it all my way, yet retain the priceless privilege of being a CM Family member.

A while back our family landed in an existing Home that agreed to put us up while we were house-hunting in the city. After a few weeks, we all began seeing that perhaps the Lord wanted us to work together with the other two families that were here, and instead of opening our own place, to join this Home. For me it was a great forsaking, as I had very definite ideas of what I wanted in a Home—a house, a property, and how to present our work.

This Home had already been running for a couple of years, and so I would have to forsake my desires, and yield to what was happening here. Things went well at first, but then when we saw things that perhaps needed to change or adjust, and our suggestions weren't met with a lot of enthusiasm, our immediate reaction was to pull out and open our own place as we originally had planned. I didn't want to deal with the issues, and just wanted to be free to operate according to my own faith and desires. I knew how I might feel if someone came into the place that I had set up and began wanting to make changes that I didn't agree with. I would have figured, “If you don't agree with how we are doing it, then why not just open your own place?”

For me it was humbling to present things as even after seven months I was still feeling like we were guests; in fact,

It'll take making mistakes and having to go back and apologize—even apologizing to the one you talked about. And even though he or she may not have known about it, all things are found out in the end, and it almost always gets back to that person.

It will take humility to do this. ... Yet this may be the only way for you to break this evil habit and to rid yourself of this evil disease. ... Let's unite now! Let's get rid of these things that are holding you back from becoming what I want you to be!

—Jesus, “Stop the Gossip Now!” (ML #3187:88–90,95)

it didn't seem we would ever overcome that “guest status” in our minds or the minds of the larger family here. My wife and I began to sense the fact that the one couple might have been sorry they had invited us, and I could understand that, because if the situation had been reversed, I might have felt the same way.

Also, because we had a “we're out of here soon” attitude, we were holding back in committing ourselves to this Home and trying to make it work. The second couple, however, were happy to have us as we provided a much needed balance and were presenting some of the very things they had been trying to bring up for the past couple of years. Our VS encouraged us to stay also for that very reason, and for the fact that the Home provided for us some of the very strengths that we were lacking as a couple.

It has been the Brazil GNs that have been a real eye opener in this area—of the Home not being your own. It's like operating a franchise, or opening a fast food outlet. Although you may spearhead it and be the one who opens it, if you want to operate under the food chain's name, you have to go by their rules. You can't stay independent and retain their name. Opening a Family Home in a city is a privilege that is granted to you by the Family, and even though you may have opened it, if you want it to be called a Family Home, then you have to understand that it does not belong to you, but to the Family, and must adhere to the principles of the Family.

In the time before the Charter this was more evident, of course, because

moves and initiatives were more a leadership thing than an individual inspiration, and personnel changes were more directed and influenced by leadership. After the Charter, it was up to *us*, and so perhaps the thinking has changed as to whose Home it is—ours or the Family's. "The Family's" meaning whoever the Lord happens to have brought to that Home—as well as to the Family overall. If you have only been in the Home a week, or if you've been there 10 years, still, the Home is a Family Home, not the property of whomever opened it or has been there the longest, or whatever.

Of course, the other side of the coin is that you respect the fact that the folks who have been there longer probably have learned a lot and know the situation better than the newcomers. It's probably best to tread lightly at first, and just live and observe for at least the first little while without coming out with things right away. But the feeling that the newer arrivals are second-class members without as much right or say, and that they are guests of the other team's hard work of setting up, and that their views are just an intrusion,

doesn't work—not if you want to be a Family Home. The fact that the original pioneers set up the work will never change, so if you follow that formula, newcomers will always be guests. My apprehension with feeling that I am intruding is just a reflection of how I would have looked at it had the situation been reversed.

The Brazil GNs for me have once again helped me to see the "forsake all" that it costs to be a Family member. The Lord still may direct us to open our own Home after a while, but if so, I will have a healthier regard for the fact that I can't (nor do I want to) corner the vision and modus operandi of the Home, but would want to truly live Acts 2:44 and 45 with the other Home members.

### **1Cor.13 in my life**

**Coral (24), Brazil:** Recently the Lord's been teaching me some lessons on love (again!), and He led me to go back and reread 1Cor.13, as it had been a while. Needless to say, it really spoke to me, and this is what I got out of it:

Though I may speak five different languages fluently, and have excellent communication with my spirit helpers,

but do not have love, I am making meaningless, empty sounds.

Though I may have a very exercised gift of prophecy, and understand the deep spiritual revelations, though I am intellectual, and though I have all faith to work the mighty miracles the Lord's promised, but do not have love, I am nothing.

And though I may work tirelessly to do my CTPs and feed and minister to my friends and sheep, and though I give my life day in and day out to keep my Home running, care for my children and young people, and pay the bills, but do not have love, it is all in vain.

Love is at its wit's end, and is still kind; love does not compare; love does not boast of itself, is not proud; love has good moral character; love looks out for others instead of herself; love does not blow up easily, love does not think negatively, love does not find pleasure in sin, but in truth; love bears her burdens bravely; love believes, hopes, endures anything.

My prophecies may fail, my witness may cease, my knowledge may vanish away, and all that remains will be faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love!

### **"WHO SAYS GOD PAYS PEANUTS?"**

*By Katrina, Thailand*

With many companies that help us with provisions and goods, I often feel that that's the limit of their giving. They prefer giving in kind, rather than cash. It takes quite a bit more faith to expect more of them, especially in terms of regular financial support, as many of them feel that they are doing enough with their contribution of goods.

Late last year, when we were challenged to get out the "Mottos for Success," we thought that with this product, we could help our contacts to start giving financially. Mr. Jaye has long helped us with cartons and cartons of peanut snacks, whenever we've needed them. He also bought some children's audio/visual materials from us for his kids some years ago. He's generally been helpful, but we've never gone further to challenge him.

So with the "Mottos," Peter opened his appeal with a joke that we needed more than just peanuts for our operating expenses. Ha! At that, Jaye agreed and said that he had been wondering how he could help us more. (Oh, we of little faith!) He then offered to give us 30,000 baht (over US\$700) for 100 calendars. Not stopping there,

he proposed that we should contact him quarterly, and he would help us financially. Wow!

Recently, we had another opportunity to see him. This time, the Lord laid on our hearts to give him Jesus and the gift of salvation. We weren't really sure what his reaction would be, but we knew the Lord would bless it if we took the step of faith. As we brought out *God on God*, it opened a way for me to get in the witness about salvation. (Just that morning, I had read an inspirational *Reflections* article about shock absorbers, and how we need Jesus in our lives to help us rise above, or absorb the intensity or effects of shocks or crises that come our way.) I used that in my witness, as I knew he had an interest in cars. He listened intently while I shared this, and then I took the plunge and invited him to pray with me, and he did!

Then came the blessing: Mr. Jaye then offered us 100,000 baht (US\$2,400). He remembered his promise to help us. This was to cover the two quarters that we hadn't seen him! Wow! Suppressing the immediate reaction to break out in tongues, jump up and praise the Lord, we instead thanked him, and then covered the

technicalities of using some of this money for the sponsorship of *Treasure Attic* VCDs for schools in the provincial areas of Pathumthani.

We hope to distribute a total of 200 VCDs to 20 schools, 10 of which will be a combined seminar hosted by the Primary Schools Education department for the province, and the other ten will allow us a more direct avenue for witnessing to many more students. We were also able, with this sponsorship, to buy a VCD machine for our CTP project at a babies' home, and also provide them with VCDs.

The exciting potential of this financial help is that it will provide a consistent avenue for us to reach many more schools and institutions, allowing for the distribution of tracts, posters and the VCDs, reaching many more in this country. We will be able to line up schools every month for the distribution of materials.

On top of all that, Jaye also arranged for us to have about 20 cartons of various peanut snacks including chickpeas, almond nuts, and different flavored nuts! So who says God pays peanuts? He's the best Boss there is, providing not just all we need but much of what we want too!

# homeschooling corner

## Helpful testing

By Lilly, USA

I took the children to be tested this week based on their portfolios. I had found a teacher through a local home-school organization. This normally is quite expensive, however, this lady said that I could clean her house in exchange for her testing the children. Well, all the children did well, and the teacher complimented us saying that we are doing a good job with our children in homeschooling them. All of the children are up to the level that they need to be.

## A wonderful heritage of Word

By Angela Victory (of Daniel), Romania

With the Lord's help we are constantly trying to improve on the education of our children and the materials we have for teaching them.

We use flannelgraphs a lot as we have small children (five, three, and five months) and because the Lord supplied the Betty Lukens flannelgraph set for the whole Bible. Also as soon as new flannelgraphs come from FC, we cut them, color them and prepare them for use with the children. Every time a new *MLK* or flannelgraph comes out, we rejoice and start using it right away.

One of my desires has been to also have the older stories on flannelgraph. So a few months ago we ordered a CD with FED materials, and a friend printed the pub "Flannelgraphs and Fun" at her work place. It came out super nice, so we cut out the pieces, colored them, glued felt on the back of them, and there we had a collection of beautiful stories: "A Man, a Boy and a Donkey," "The Camel's Nose," "Change the World," all the Endtime ones, and more.

Our girls really enjoy them, as they know the stories, and to see them and have them done with a flannelgraph was a treat. We also plan to continue printing other pubs that we don't have available in this way, like the *Good Thots* for kids, other flannelgraphs, Bible activity pages, etc.

We also ordered from the FED a CD with all the MWM stories, and another one with all the Christian Drama stories as MP3s.

Thank you for taking the time to put all these wonderful tools, pubs and CDs together for us to benefit from. We have such a wonderful heritage of Word, let's use it! It's the best thing we can teach our children!

## Progress in meeting scholastic needs

By Sunny, Philippines

Since starting the new school year, we have greatly altered our schedule to accommodate the scholastic needs of our children and young people, and all the members in our Home are committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for our school-age children to be up to par with their scholastic levels. Some are needing to catch up a bit, but they and their teachers have been able to establish a schedule and homework assignments and classroom rules to ensure that they get the maximum benefit of their time.

The children are learning to apply themselves to their schoolwork and to have more self-discipline. This is a major victory! School is doing a lot better, since the children have a regular and full-time teacher who is with them almost every day of the week for their school days, and is able to keep track of their progress and school records.

## Hands-on courses

By Esther Spark, Philippines

In our subdivision area we found a small vocational school based in the community hall. They offer basic courses in computer, childcare, care for the elderly, first aid, and food services. These are very cheap, about \$20 for a six-week course, and issue diplomas at the end for an extra \$5. The courses are only two hours a day and can be in the mornings, afternoons or evenings. The administrator said these schools are being set up throughout the country to supplement the regular schooling of teens. You don't have to go to another school to attend; the only requirement is paying the tuition fee. This could be a big help to the Homes that don't feel capable of teaching the hands-on part of these courses.

## Art classes for kids

By Kristia, Thailand

As neither one of us are artists in any way, we decided to enroll Jaime (7) and Julia (4) in a nearby art school. This has become the highlight of their week! What's more, the school creates a very impressive portfolio for the kids, with photos, weekly grading of their work and style, etc., and the artwork to show for their efforts. We've noticed that it has really ignited their interest in using

and creating art during their spare time, whether it's with playdough, crayons or whatever. We now have a display wall too for their "masterpieces"!

## Making memory work fun for little ones

By Isabelle, Romania

I want to testify to what a big blessing the FED library is! It is a big help for new mothers who haven't had a lot of experience in childcare. I just borrowed videos that explain about teaching reading to little ones, and I got excellent tips from there. My son already likes reading more since I got these different ideas!

We have a preschooler and a toddler in the Home, and I realize how important it is to make reading, devotions, and memorization fun for them. One morning, I had devotions with the kids, and at the end I said enthusiastically "We have a new verse for today! As they went they were healed!" But the four-year-old boy rolled his eyes.

Upon seeing this I decided to make it fun for him. I grabbed a robe and put it on, and said, "I'm sick! I'm so sick! Where is Jesus?"

The little boy jumped up, saying that he wanted to be Jesus. Then he looked at me, and told me to go and show myself to the priest. (I helped him with what to say.) The new verse now had a new meaning.

## Xn reading class

By Jason Servant, United Kingdom

One area we've been working on has been our JETT/teen boys' reading. We've been reading the stories from the *Xn* with each person taking a turn reading. During this time I am able to help them with their pronunciation, etc. This seems to give them more confidence, as they all know it's a reading class. They also help each other with difficult words.

## Local language study ideas

By Marie Clair, Japan

This month, River (20) was able to organize all of our Japanese study materials, and with the help of our Active members, has begun teaching the kids and teens for an hour or more daily. This is a big victory for us!

The class usually begins with work on the Kumon drill sheets, followed by reading in Japanese, pronunciation and Japanese vocabulary. We have

been using the Japanese *MLKs* and *Heaven's Library* mags for this, as well as *Victory in Babylon* in Japanese for the ones who are a bit more advanced. We are also learning to use Japanese New Testaments in our personal witnessing. We hope to start opening each class with a bit of Word on becoming one, learning the language, and being missionaries in Japan, to keep the students motivated.

## Language discussions

*By Dorcas Pioneer, Japan*

Recently the YAs and SGAs have been working on expressing and explaining about their beliefs, Family education, etc., ... in Japanese! For one class they had a debate on System education vs. Family education. One of the national FGAs here debated for the System education side, while asking our young people questions and inquiring about Family education.

This is very good practice and I suggest that you do so in your Homes! Especially if your teens are well versed in the subject, all they need is a little help on how to say the big words and... *voilà!* You will see their Japanese vocabulary (or whatever language you are teaching) increasing tremendously and they will be able to explain about our life style and beliefs with confidence!

## High school diploma push

*By Willing S., Taiwan*

Having the requirements raised for the Vocational High School (VHS) Diploma has been good news in a number of ways. Many YAs and SGAs are actually closer than they think to a High School diploma. For example, Family drivers can get up to 10 Vocational credits. Childcare workers and teachers can easily chalk up to six credits for time on childcare. There are even credits given for being a full-time missionary in a Family Home for six months! It's great to see our brothers and sisters getting turned on and receiving credit for their years of hard work. In the commotion all this educational "push" is causing, we hope to get all the young people turned on to Family education!

## Free program, books and tests for elementary students

*By David, Natalia, and Susana, Mexico*

This month we enrolled our kids, ages 10 and up, in a government program that is called INEA through which they can obtain their Primary School Certificates. This program is free and they give you all the books. The students have the option of going to their classes or studying at home, and then

taking the tests with them. They don't have a deadline, so they can work at their own pace, and when the parents think they are ready the kids can take the tests and get an official certificate according to the Mexican study program.

To take the tests you have to have residency if you're a foreigner, but in our case since we don't have our residency yet, but have submitted all the paperwork for it, they still gave us the books and the children are already enrolled in this program. The program is very simple and we believe it can also be a help to other families, so they can have legal documentation of their children's studies.

In our case, due to changes our children haven't always been able to get their regular schooling and it's easy to get the notion that they are very behind in their studies. However, after looking through these books we've realized that they are more or less at their level. That was very encouraging for us and also helped to raise their self-esteem in regards to their schooling.

## Renovating kids' room

*By Dorcas Pioneer, Japan*

A big victory this month was the renovating of our children's (ages 9, 8, 6) room. Before our kids' room was quite cluttered with bedding, toys, and they needed a proper study area. But as the Lord has been showing us in recent GNs and Letters that we needed to prepare for coming persecution, it really shook us up. So with the help of one of the nearby Home's handyman we got to work! The results? We now have desks for each of the children where they can store their own books, records etc. Also Kibou (18) made very nice chairs for them with space under the seats for them to store their toys, stuffed animals, etc.

The kids' classroom was something we needed to work on, and even though the task did seem a bit daunting at first, we now have a far better setup for the kids' classroom, and now study and teaching is a lot easier. The Lord never fails to supply and if you do what you

can, He will do the rest! So don't give up, folks! Keep on fighting to make our kids' schooling areas a good sample, not only for outsiders and authorities but for our own kids' sake to make an inspiring environment to study in.

—“

Our homes are very clean, hygienic, safe, orderly, peaceful and loving environments for children. We devote attention and prayer to making our homes safe and clean environments for all to live in. Children's rooms are made safe, clean and cheerful, with good ventilation and proper lighting. Play equipment, swimming pools and home furnishings are carefully inspected to make them as "child-safe" and accident-proof as possible.

Our homes themselves are kept in good condition, and repairs are made as needed. Often one or more persons within the home is a skilled handyman who regularly cares for the normal repair needs of a home; if there is not a handyman present in the home, one may visit from another community to do the repairs, or repairs are taken care of by hired repairmen.

—“The Heritage and Home Life of Our Children” Statement

”—

## Portfolios for YAs and SGAs

*By Dorcas Pioneer, Japan*

This month our YAs and SGAs made their educational portfolios, and are working on getting their educational logs up to date. Tomoko (YA) has been doing an excellent job making everyone's portfolios. GBH! The portfolios are all very nice and presentable with lots of pictures.

I'd advise anyone when making their portfolios to add lots of pictures as "a picture is worth a thousand words" and are very powerful as people can actually see the activities that your kids are doing. They can't deny it when they see a picture. Finding nice pictures that they would like to put in their portfolio could also be a fun activity to do with your kids.

## New Web site for Africa!—By David and Rachel, South Africa

Check out the new Web site for Africa!—A joint production by the CGO and PR boards in Africa. The address is <http://www.thefamilyafrica.org>

We need more input from the Homes in Africa—photos, testimonies, etc. Also if you have a local Web site, you can send in your address, and we can link it to the site.

You will also notice if you go on the site that the *12 Foundation Stones* course is available by Internet study through The Family Missionary Institute. Why not introduce the idea to your sheep by advertising it? We already have over 200 people on the course in Johannesburg and Pretoria, now it is about to take off throughout Africa!

All photos, testimonies, and Web site links can be sent to: [familyafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:familyafrica@mweb.co.za).



Pharisees

# Godspell

## —Theater Play

By Tina (SGA), Uganda

“You cannot serve God!”  
says Jesus loud and clear.

“What?!” exclaims the puzzled  
cast of *Godspell*, in which I find  
myself one of the questioning  
disciples.

“...and money!”  
He finishes His sentence.

The rest of the cast heaves a  
sigh of relief, and then off we go on  
to discuss money problems in our  
everyday life. Jesus then encourages  
one of the cast to tell the story of  
the rich fool. So goes the play based  
on the gospel of Mathew.

I was able to join in the audi-  
tions for the Kampala Amateur  
Dramatics Society (KADS),  
which holds one musical, two  
plays, and one pantomime each  
year here in Uganda. They are a  
big part of the entertainment in  
this country with one “mall” and  
one real supermarket! *Godspell* was  
the musical of choice for 2003. God  
somehow wrangled a part for me as  
Robin, which is relative as no one  
is called by their name in the play  
and the names are actually the real  
names of the original cast.

Its focus is the formation of  
a community around a Man with  
a simple but profound message:  
“Always treat others as you would  
have them treat you,” and “Any-  
thing you did not do for one of  
your brothers here, you did not  
do for Me.”

The show begins with  
Socrates, Thomas Aquinas, Mar-  
tin Luther, Leonardo da Vinci (me  
☺), Edward Gibbon, Nietzsche,  
Sartre, and Buckminster Fuller,  
all arguing their diverse doc-  
trine, openly displaying their  
intolerance for each other. When

John the Baptist comes in with,  
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord,”  
he unites these unique individu-  
als (who then lose their character  
roles as the famous thinkers and  
evolve into a group of disciples  
with very different personalities),  
under Jesus’ leadership they begin  
to function as a group.

It was a very unique opportuni-  
ty to be involved in a secular theatre  
group and a play that is so right on  
in its teachings. My roles included  
being the master who forgave his  
servant a large debt only to find the  
servant would not forgive his fellow  
a servant’s small debt so had him  
jailed! (Done as a Shirley Temple  
imitation!—of all things!) I was a  
sheep, a lion, a sinner, a Pharisee,  
a judge, the adulteress’ accuser,  
the rich man in the parable of the  
rich man, and poor man Lazarus,  
as well as dancing the Charleston,  
Motown, and with streamers!

Being in the Family and be-  
ing so familiar with the parables in  
Matthew made learning the lines  
easy. TTL! It was a step of faith for  
me to sing, as though I love singing  
I’ve never been a “singer.” Since  
the Lord told me He wanted me  
to do this for several reasons, He  
promised to take care of my singing  
abilities and help me. Before each  
show (we did six performances) I  
claimed the keys and asked the  
Lord to take full possession as well  
as send a large share of spirit  
helpers for my part. This was so  
wonderful and I wished the rest of  
the cast (who are all Christian to  
different degrees) had the wealth  
of spiritual help we have.

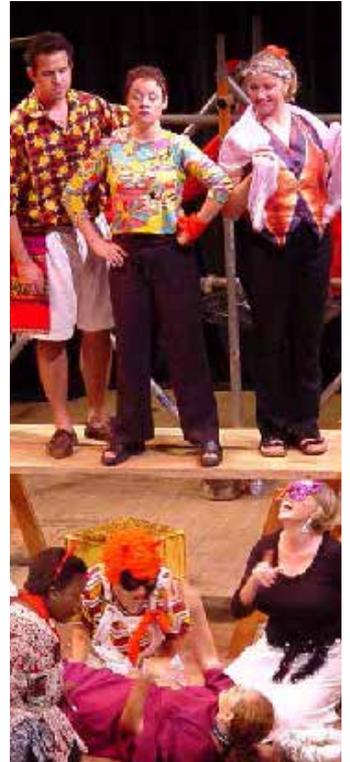
The rest of the cast were for  
the most part professional, and  
they were really great, especially  
the one who played Jesus. Many  
of our friends who we invited to  
come said they felt the spirit very  
strong. A cast member’s boyfriend,  
who was an atheist, came to the  
show and cried at the crucifixion  
scene and finale.

It turned out to be an excellent  
way to bring our Muslim friends  
closer to Jesus as the KADS is a  
secular society, which performs all

sorts of classic plays and musicals,  
and we performed at the National  
Theatre. *Godspell* shows Jesus as  
a very gentle, kind, funny, but  
strong character, and not at all  
churchy. The first message in the  
play is about not being like the  
Pharisees, and making a show of  
your religion.

One of the other reasons it  
was good that I participated in  
this was that up till now hardly  
anyone here in Uganda has ever  
heard of the Family other than it  
being a fellowship of independent  
missionaries we at RadioActive  
Productions are part of. But recently  
a few “cult” references have come  
up from different sources. One of  
the cast, Kate, is Australian, and  
was [in Australia] during the bad  
publicity. So when I was having  
lunch with some of the cast they  
were asking me questions about  
my background, as they knew I  
worked with RadioActive, and that  
my parents were missionaries in  
Asia, etc. I was showing them my  
PR album, and mentioned we were  
the Family. Kate immediately said  
that it sounded like a cult. I was  
able to explain the fuller picture  
of the persecution in Australia.  
She was quite amazed, as she had  
never thought there was another  
side to that story, and since we  
had been working together on this  
play for several weeks she knew  
I didn’t seem too weird. She had  
also met my daughter several  
times who was obviously well  
cared for. She totally changed her  
position and wants to get our  
kids together to play and visit her  
house. Since a large part of the  
foreign community goes to see the  
plays, having one of us in it (and  
hopefully more in the future) has  
been a good sample of socializa-  
tion, and a wonderful chance to  
show off our Family training!

After the play we had Caddy  
Awards, which is a bit of a joke,  
but it’s where the director gives a  
meaningful item to each of the  
cast for their efforts in the play.  
For example, a lady who played  
“Herb”



Story of Lazarus

got mixed ground spice: Mixed  
because she brought singing, dan-  
cing and acting to the play; ground  
because she always had her feet  
on the ground and was on time;  
spice because, well, she played  
“Herb.” Ha! After a few more of  
those (a brick for one of the solid  
KADS members, Tops chocolate  
sauce for the one who played Je-  
sus, whose acting was just tops!  
Laura, our Irish director, then  
gave me a banana leaf statuette of  
a woman with a baby on her back,  
mixing in a bowl, which she said  
was her equivalent of an Oscar,  
as she was so impressed with my  
performance. Let me stress here,  
my “performance” was completely  
average for anyone in the Family  
who’s done a skit once in their life  
or taught kids!

All in all it was a great experi-  
ence and lots of fun. It was excit-  
ing to see that the Lord is not limited  
in witnessing methods, so it’s good  
to keep your eyes open and know  
that God can use anything—even  
me!

# Pray!

**Healing key:** The keys give you power to rise above every affliction, and faith to receive My full and complete healing.

## Testimonies of Answered Prayer

**Mel (22), Sierra Leone:** The Lord has been healing Matt from malaria. He's now back home with us, eating well, his speech is getting clearer every day, and he's making a lot of progress. Thank the Lord! We can truly say that it's because of everyone's prayers that he is doing so much better.

[Editor's note: See GV #160, page 10 for full prayer request.]

**Ezequiel (of Sunny) Brazil:** Thank you so much for your prayers, Sunny was operated on and everything went well! The growth she had on her thyroid was benign! So there's no cancer, and she's recuperating well. We appreciate your prayers for her full recuperation, and for her body to adapt, as half of her thyroid gland had to be removed.

Thank you for being such a help and support during this time. We love you and appreciate you!

**Joy (of Daniel Love), Brazil:** The Lord miraculously brought Natalia Daniele into this world despite the placenta previa. She was born five weeks premature via cesarean, but she is fine and healthy, and didn't have to stay in the incubator. Praise the Lord!

**Gideon and Heidi, Pakistan:** We'd like to thank you so much for your prayers for our new little one, Kiana Nicole. Your prayers have had a real effect, and she has made great progress. She is gaining weight and no longer requires tube feeding. Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement!

## Asia

**Kiana (2 months, of Gideon and Heidi):** Was born premature, and still requires full-time care and attention. Please pray that she will develop properly, and put on weight, which is a key to her continued growth and progress.

**Liberty Swiss (of Ivan):** Cancer of the rectum and colon; will undergo surgery. Anointing of the surgeon, for wisdom and supply, for removal of all cancerous cells, and complete recovery.

## Europe/Africa

**David Newheart:** Ear infection, chronic tiredness, and refractory bronchitis, for good health and to take good care of his body.

## Pacific

**Jude:** Angioma (a benign tumor made up of blood or lymph vessels), causing very bad headaches and memory loss at times. The doctor can't do anything about it, as it is almost in the center of his brain. So please pray for complete healing, leading, and guidance.

## South America

**Lily (of Jon):** Recurrence of endometriosis (a medical condition in which the mucous membrane that normally lines only the womb is present and functioning in the ovaries or elsewhere in the body). Was treated a year and a half ago and got healed, but is now experiencing some

sporadic pains again in the right side of her uterus.

**Natalia** (newborn, of Daniel and Joy): Five weeks premature. Against catching anything (colds especially, and it's winter here), as her immune system is still developing. That she would be able to nurse; she doesn't have much strength to nurse.

**Paul Braveheart** (25, of Gaby): Serious case of typhoid fever. Please pray for his immediate recovery and that the Lord will raise him up and that his body will take the antibiotics well. For his strength and overall healing.

**Susan** (12, of Serena Spring): Tachycardia (an excessively rapid heart-beat), for the Lord to completely heal her.

## PRAYER TIPS

### Daily prayer journal

**An FGA woman, Europe:** The Lord gave me a beautiful idea of starting a prayer journal for my intercessory prayer time. This is how it works: I take something Mama and the Lord would like us to keep in prayer from the Letters, like the Junior teens. I photocopy the requests from the mags as well as the key promises and paste them in my daily prayer journal. I also cut out key words from the *Grapevine*, and paste these in my book to pray for, etc. This really helps me to remember who to pray for and to concentrate my prayers. It also makes my intercessory prayer time more powerful and helps me to take aim! I've included other subjects as well!

Another feeding way to pray is to take the GNs on prayer and as I read, I claim the beautiful promises contained therein for each request.

### Making it a part of life

**Sara, Germany:** I am very happy for the new Charter requirement of having half an hour of intercessory prayer daily. It is very difficult for me to "bring my thoughts into subjection," and although over the years the Lord has helped me to discipline my mind more, I still have to battle daydreaming, and letting my mind go wandering off with thoughts about all the cares of this life. So now I feel the challenge to concentrate and put my heart into praying for others and their situations as a big blessing in my life. When praying for people in that way, even putting myself in their shoes and understanding their situation better, I feel much closer to them. It also makes me appreciate folks more who pray for me or our Home and children.

All throughout the day the Lord is faithful to remind me to choose another request from our prayer list, and take it to Him. Although I have to be tuned in to my children even when doing many manual tasks like the dishes, laundry and cleaning, the Lord showed me that there's always time to pray for one person or situation at least.

In our Home we divide the prayer requests between all the adults and teens, and everyone usually has about seven requests to intercede for. They are written on small cards that can be carried around with you anywhere and we exchange them weekly, so that you don't always have the same requests, and also to add new ones and omit the "taken care of" ones. I also include my children in my prayer time, asking them to help me pray during get-outs, walks or after their Word time. It teaches them to pray for others, too. (When with the children I choose the more "milky" requests to pray for with them.)

If there's time to do the whole half hour in one shot, like on my W&R, I find it very inspiring to read a Psalm or Proverb, and pray as the verses remind me of certain situations, until all the list is taken care of.

Going through the keys promises booklet and claiming the keys for each request is also great. Then there's the middle of the night, when I wake up and can't go back to sleep. I try to keep my card on my night table, so it's easily available. After a wholehearted prayer the Lord usually helps me fall back to sleep. This new requirement has been a tremendous help and blessing in my spiritual life.

# entertainment

Movies Rated for YAs and Up

## **WAKING UP IN RENO (2002)**

Billy Bob Thornton, Charlize Theron, Patrick Swayze, Natasha Richardson

Two married couples who have been friends for years thought they knew one another, until they decided to take a vacation together.

*(Dad:)* This is an adult comedy. It's a story of how four friends in the System cope with infidelity, and although many of their actions are, of course, not according to the guidelines of the Law of Love that the Lord has given to the Family, and their behavior doesn't measure up to the level of consideration and prayerfulness that the Lord would expect of *you*, they do pretty well for their situation. They come through it for the better rather than—as can often be the case in the world—for the worse.

Although the topic itself isn't a light one, this isn't a heavy or serious movie, as the humor and sitcom-type dialogue helps keep the mood light for the most part. Unfortunately, some of the humor is off-color, and there is a fair bit of foul language.

The characters do wake up to a lot about themselves, and the story comes to a pretty good conclusion, after all is considered. If mature viewers are looking for a relaxing comedy that's not too deep and are not expecting too much, they will probably enjoy this one. Like with any movie, you should of course pray and ask the Lord if you should watch this one; if you are facing personal relationship problems at the time, it may not be the best thing for you to watch.

Movies Rated for Senior Teens and Up

## **EQUILIBRIUM (2002)**

Christian Bale, Emily Watson

In a fascist future where all forms of feeling are illegal, a man in charge of enforcing the law finds himself questioning it.

*(Jesus:)* This movie reminds you of the beauty of the human soul. What they were trying to nullify in this futuristic society was the soul, which is more than just feelings. There is a fair bit of violence in this movie, but the message is good. (There is one somewhat disturbing scene, toward the end of the movie, after a long sword fight, that sensitive viewers will want to be forewarned about.) It has some good parallels to what you in the Family face, and what you're fighting for.

Even in a perfect society, where there's no longer war, and everyone has what they want in the physical, kind of like what the AC government will try to offer in many ways, still, the heart of man is looking for and needs something more. There will always be those who are receptive to

My Spirit, and who will be called to drop out of the System, out of the flatlander existence, and live in a new dimension—and even give their lives, if need be, in order to free others.

These poor people, because they were not used to the freedom of having emotions, knew very little about how to control their emotions once they were allowed to have them. Thank Me for how I've not only allowed you to have emotions, but through the freedoms of the Spirit I've given you through salvation and through the liberating Words of David, you in the Family have a greater degree of emotional experiences than most. And through the experiences you've had, you've learned and continue to learn how to give these emotions to Me; you have Me to help you through difficult emotions.

## **BAND OF BROTHERS (2001)**

Damian Lewis, Donnie Wahlberg, Ron Livingston

Mini-series based on WWII historian Stephen Ambrose's nonfiction book about an Army rifle company that parachuted into France on D-Day. A realistic look at war, with a lot of battle scenes.

*(Jesus:)* This series is well done and would be interesting for some people. But for those who are uninterested in that historical period, the movie will not interest them, and for others it is simply too many hours of war to watch.

I'd consider it beneficial for most young men to watch it and see what real war is like. In this case it may have started off looking fun and exciting, but the days turned to weeks, the months to years, and the years dragged on. Soon, all that these men had left to fight for was for each other—to keep each other alive.

It is a true story, and it accurately portrays those at the "grass roots" of war. It's not about the glorified generals, nor the politicians or statesmen who gave all the "good reasons" to fight. It's about the men who followed orders.

There's a lot you can gain from this about what happens in the hearts of young men called out to war, whether a just or unjust cause. It kills their hearts in some ways. For you, My soldiers, being called out to war strengthens your heart. For those who are called upon to fight in man's gruesome wars, a part of their heart is killed.

This movie has a good message on the need for unity. These soldiers were men from very different backgrounds, with different desires and plans for their lives, but they united to get the job done. They stood up for each other. They fought for each other. They were willing to give their lives for each other, and they did.

War movies are often very subtle. While there are many lessons that are valuable to your spirit, the Enemy also tries to get through his propaganda. He often attempts to glorify the military unit as something that builds character and forges the "best" in men. The truth is that the sole purpose of the military is to destroy life, whereas you in the Family are tasked as soldiers for the protection and creation of life.

You are all tasked with the impossible; you all face a mightier, and sometimes seemingly overwhelming foe. Yet when you are desperate with Me, calling down My power, and you fight in earnest to overcome, you receive much in the way of spiritual commendation and medals, and lay up rewards which are eternal.

It is sad to see so many die, and many of the men who took part in this horrible war had to live with memories of those they lost, as well as of the horrors that they witnessed. They honestly believed what they were doing was right—and I rewarded them for the times they tried to do good and sacrifice of themselves for the greater good. To you whom much truth has been given is much more required—to give your lives for Me daily.

Movies Rated for JETTs and Up

## **SEABISCUIT (2003)**

Tobey Maguire, Jeff Bridges, Chris Cooper

Inspiring true story of the undersized Depression-era racehorse Seabiscuit and the three-man team behind him.

*(Dad:)* This is an excellent movie on not giving up, having faith in people, and learning to persevere in the face of adversity. I love fighter movies, because they show that if you really stick to what you know is your calling and don't give up, then things can happen. That is the beauty of this story. In many ways all the characters were has-beens—their dreams had been dashed or things had gone awry for them, but good comes of it.

It's easy when things seem to go amiss, or seeming disaster strikes, to get discouraged and give up. But in this movie the characters don't give up. They make their way through the dark times of their lives and come through victoriously. There are some good parallels in this story to your life's race, because no matter what a failure people think you are, and how many times you stumble and fall, if you keep getting up, you can go on to win. All victories come at a cost, but if you're committed to the victory, then nothing can keep you back.

There are a couple of fight scenes that may be unpleasant for sensitive viewers, but compared to the general state of movies shown out there today, it is mild. The movie also has almost no foul language.

The humor added in to spice it up makes it fun, and the good lessons in it make it wholesome—something worth your time seeing.

It's a little sad that they don't bring the Lord in more, but in Hollywood these days this is about as uplifting as a non-Christian movie will get. It's one of those heartwarming and touching stories that leave a big impression in people's minds. This is a story of love and care winning out over overwhelming odds. The heart of man is the same the world over. Everyone needs love. Everyone needs to be cared for and feel like someone out there really does love and care for them. Love and caring bring out the best in people.

### **CIMMARON (1931)**

Richard Dix, Irene Dunn

The Oklahoma land rush of 1889 provides the starting point for this western drama, when a newspaper editor settles in an Oklahoma boomtown with his reluctant wife. (Dad mentioned this movie in ML #1623:18.)

*[Editor's note: After previewing, parents could show this movie to OCs if they deem it suitable and if they take the time to explain certain things.]*

*(Jesus:)* This movie is valuable because it's historical, and also because it promotes the values of being a pioneer and fighting for just causes. It brings out the importance of putting the rights of others above your own selfishness. Cimarron had a pioneering spirit, but even more so, he had the spirit of one who wished to change the world. It shows My blessing on such a life.

This movie could be used as a springboard for understanding and studying that time in history. It shows the rush for new land, the construction of a town and its evolution into more modern times, the discovery of oil, and the changes that brought in people's lives, making them more selfish and greedy.

There is not much violence compared to today's standard. Some people do get shot, but they bring out the pain and hurt of such a thing, and life isn't considered cheap. The hero of the story has a kind heart and really stands up for what he believes in. However, his wife never understands him and is by contrast a Systemite. If she would have been more supportive of him this would have made the movie better and more edifying, but her example is a good lesson on how not to be.

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Other Movies

### **GURU, THE (2002)**

Jimi Mistry, Heather Graham, Marisa Tomei

*(Jesus:)* This movie brings out some interesting aspects of life and of the human spirit. It shows the struggles of the poor non-American immigrants, coming to pursue the "American dream," and in a way it spoofs that dream, and exposes how it's not reality. It also pokes some fun at the very non-international and racially biased attitudes of some Americans, and how ignorant they can be sometimes.

It has a message in there about sex and spirituality, about how sex is a gift of God, and your bodies and the way they feel were created to be enjoyed. That's something that you don't hear all that often in the world, expressed in that way. Of course they get a bit carried away with it in this one, but it doesn't get into anything strange. It's also got lessons about honesty vs. covering up, and some other simple love/relationship themes.

It's different style-wise. It takes on some of the Bollywood\* aspects of a movie, with its characters breaking out into Indian-style song and dance at several points. (\*nickname given to the Indian film industry)

There is one scene toward the end with two gay men kissing, which is something that viewers should be forewarned about. It's all but irrelevant to the story, and wasn't necessary to include by any means.

### **ANGER MANAGEMENT (2002)**

Adam Sandler, Jack Nicholson

*(Jesus:)* What silly, crazy people! It's like the blind leading the blind—an insane person trying to help someone who has anger problems. Really, his wasn't true anger in the sense of rage, but it was bottled-up suppression of his frustrations.

I can and will always help you with the problems you face, those that cause irritation, frustration, or anger. I can always help with this—either by providing a solution or a way of escape, or by giving peace and even contentment in the middle of a difficult situation.

This movie is like watching something that is all backwards, turned upside down and wrong side out. It's like watching a comedy of errors. Although it is obvious that sometimes therapy or confronting one's past or dealing with frustration by voicing it can help, really these approaches do not change the heart of the problem—which is man's nature that has its own sinful bent, that is inclined to selfishness rather than inclined to what is good and loving and merciful and peaceful.

How do you think people who have to battle this serious problem of anger and rage feel when an affliction like this is taken and made fun of and portrayed in a humorous manner? It is not a light or humorous topic, and it just goes to show you how low Hollywood has to stoop these days to find a topic that will be entertaining to people.

I will not say that this movie should not be viewed, but I will say that it is the opposite of My methods, and My love, and My mercy, and My solutions to anger. Of course, My children viewing this will know that, and therein lies the humor—the backwardness of it all. If people happen to watch it, it's not going to harm them spiritually or emotionally, but there are other movies out there that are a better use of your time, even just for entertainment.

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## **WANT ADS**

Dear Brethren,

God bless you all! We pray that you have a good time serving our dear Husband! With this message we want to ask you for your help and prayer. A few months ago we opened a new Home in Russia. We got married recently and in July had a sweet little baby girl, Anastasia. We are planning to visit our parents, and we have to do some paperwork for Veronica and the baby. So we wanted to ask you for financial help and prayer—that the Lord would help us with all we need to accomplish and that this paperwork will take as little time as possible.

You can send us donations to RU016 through the TRF or we can send you our bank account specifics.

Thank you for your prayers. We're sure the Lord will bless you a lot.

With lots of love and prayer,

**Peter and Veronica**

Our dear Family! We are a Russian couple, **Joseph and Marta, and our baby Ania!** We've been living in Russia our whole lives but the Lord has shown us to move to the field of China. It's a new and big step in our lives, but we're really excited about it.

In order for us to move we need about US\$1,000. It is difficult to fundraise for such an amount of money here in Russia. We would like to ask if any of you feel the burden to help us! You can send your donations via Russian ABM to RU004, for Joseph and Marta.

We'd also appreciate if someone can help us and donate a good laptop, so that we'll be able to read the Word on and use it for communications. We love you all! Thank you so much!

With love and prayers,  
Joseph and Marta

# Shine On—July 2003

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
<b>SOUL SHINERS FOR JULY 2003</b>		
Rosita, Mexico	3,100	6,200
Josue/Maria Fiel, Mexico	1,478	10,348
Charity/Happy/Joshua, India	731	7,307
Faithy/Mark/Premika, India	730	7,300
Claire/Daniel/Steven, India	563	2,250
Daniel/Lily/Melanie/Pawel, Brazil	213	1,067
Mario/Micah/Thai, Thailand	162	808
Happy/Marcelo/Nina/Silvia, Argentina	143	1,001
Andrew/Mary/Michael, Kenya	132	1,053
Josue/Paolo/Simon/Vicky, Italy	118	942

TRACTS SHINERS FOR JULY 2003	Per Adult	Total
Charity/Happy/Joshua, India	5,000	50,000
Heber/Maria/Stephen, Peru	3,425	27,400
Joy Newlove, Peru	2,500	5,000
Josue/Maria Fiel, Mexico	2,032	14,221
Dulce/Matthew/Perola, Brazil	1,750	7,000
Amada/David/Victoria, Mexico	1,509	10,560
Eric/Ester/Joseph/Josiah/Joy, USA	1,500	9,000
Esperanza/José, Peru	1,167	7,000
Abner/Claire/Esther/Sharmini, So. Africa	1,111	10,000
André, Brazil	1,067	3,200

ACTIVATED DISTRIBUTION SHINERS FOR JULY 2003	Per Adult	Total
Kathryn/Mark/Renee, India	627	6,900
Aneta/Ben/Christy, Botswana	571	4,000
Angelo/David/Dawn/Peter, USA	509	3,054
Andy/Marie/Mark/Nicole, Taiwan	491	4,909
Anaik/Joy/Mike/Sharon/Tiago, Brazil	360	3,240
Rose/Shine/Timothy, USA	287	3,438
Abner/Claire/Esther/Sharmini, So. Africa	200	1,800
Angie/Isaac/Ruth, SEA	174	870
Chris/Hosanna/Ruth, Mexico	159	1,274
Claire/Daniel/Steven, India	159	635

ACTIVATED SUBSCRIPTION SHINERS FOR JULY 2003	Per Adult	Total
Armi/Beth/Carina/Crystal/John/Jonathan/Joy/Karishma/Samuel, India	70	
Andrew/Hosanna/MaryAnn/Rajan/Steven, India	64	
David/Sarah/Simon, India	56	
James/Peter/Praise, Philippines	51	
Andrew/Mary/Michael, Kenya	43	
Dust/Eman/Perla/Smyle, Albania	39	
Christina/Johnny/Sunny, Taiwan	38	
Prem/Ruth/Sharon/Simon, India	37	
Aaron/Joyful/Luis/Paul, India	29	
Hannah/Mary/Matthew/Sara, India	28	

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
<b>POSTER SHINERS FOR JULY 2003</b>		
Daniel/Lily/Melanie/Pawel, Brazil	14,844	74,222
Clare/Peter, Japan	1,340	2,680
IT1152, Italy	1,250	2,500
Andre/Maria/Martin, Mozambique	1,203	6,016
Rosita, Mexico	1,150	2,300
Jeremy/Milah/Sarah, USA	770	3,850
Christian/Maria/Michael, Japan	711	2,843
Pablo/Samuel/Sara, Mexico	665	3,324
Rose/Shine/Timothy, USA	636	7,636
Meekness/Philip, Namibia	500	1,000

TAPES/CDs SHINERS FOR JULY 2003	Per Adult	Total
Aneta/Ben/Christy, Botswana	300	2,100
Jonathan/Lisa/Marc/Theophany, ME	143	1,001
Belem/David/David/Madalena/Mateo/Pablo, Brazil105		628
EN472, United Kingdom	87	262
US3970, USA	82	245
Sweetie, Mexico	78	156
Angela/Elias, Spain	77	154
Joan/Pauline/Sonny, Russia	74	222
Angela/Brian/Joana, Brazil	61	367
Faithy/Lalo/Natalia/Robin, Mexico	58	232

BOOKS SHINERS FOR JULY 2003	Per Adult	Total
Angeles/Iris/Ivan/Joao, Portugal	470	3,290
João B. (Clara), Brazil	408	815
Alfredo/Charity/Rachel, Brazil	353	2,120
Andre/Marie/Mary/Samuel, SEA	151	605
Abner/Claire/Esther/Sharmini, So. Africa	151	1,360
Charity/Chris, Australia	125	500
Isacco Oasis, Italy	105	420
Charity/Happy/Joshua, India	100	996
Abner/Apollos/Priscilla/Tiago, Brazil	67	467
David/Sarah/Simon, India	65	588

VIDEO SHINERS FOR JULY 2003	Per Adult	Total
Daniel/Rejoice/Spring, Indonesia	74	520
João B. (Clara), Brazil	44	87
Rejoice/Virginia, USA	40	320
Felipe/Marcos/Paulo/Vitória, Brazil	29	117
Andrew/Johnny/Marie/Ruth, USA	20	143
Elisabeth/Emmanuel/Felicia/Simeon, Indonesia	20	78
Andres/Virginia, Brazil	18	54
Coral/Patti/Phil/Santiago, Brazil	17	199
Anaik/Joy/Mike/Sharon/Tiago, Brazil	16	146
Iris/Jeremias/Luz/Paulo, Brazil	15	108

QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTION STATS BY DESK	May	June	July
Activated Desk			
Brazil	148	219	191
Chile	7	11	14
Colombia	24	13	21
EE and Russia	220	545	149
Europe/Africa	176	267	193
India	440	394	482
Japan	46	117	29
Mexico	11	21	23
N. America	16	4	4
Philippines	108	62	98
Taiwan	73	41	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>1,694</b>	<b>1,285</b>

## Personals

Hello, out there! I'm Ezekiel (14, of Mary Hart, a.k.a. Gloria Bruni) and I'm looking for **Sherry (of James and Pauline)** in Canada. Please contact me at: [letzdzant2002@hotmail.com](mailto:letzdzant2002@hotmail.com)

Hi, this is Alisa (14, of Martin and Mercy) and I'm looking for **Bella (of Steven and Mary)**, last heard of in Thailand. Bella ... write me! Thank you! My e-mail is: [mozamfam@tropical.co.mz](mailto:mozamfam@tropical.co.mz).

**Jon (formerly EzB)**, where are you? Please get in touch with Divina at: [wildrobdv@yahoo.com](mailto:wildrobdv@yahoo.com).

**To my friends and Family all over the world**, I (Merlin) just want to let you all know that my previous e-mail account is now closed and my new address is [dan22merl@yahoo.com](mailto:dan22merl@yahoo.com). Please write me at my new one, since I lost all your addresses when it was closed, and I haven't got the best memory for names and numbers. Thanks and GBY all. I hope to hear from you all again very soon. Love, Merlin

## Activated responses

I am one of your fans. I got to know about *Activated* through my sister. I am a student of St. Louis grammar school. I am 15 years old. Can I receive your *Activated* magazines?  
—OLUWOLW, NIGERIA

I thank you for what you have done to change my life from darkness where I have been. Before *Activated* I was like the lost sheep!  
—AOP, UGANDA

I am very grateful for the *Activated* magazines I receive from you monthly. I am glad to say that four of your colleagues have visited me, and I discussed a lot with them. I understand now they are in Kampala, Uganda and I will make an attempt to visit them there. I am also grateful for your editor's (Keith Phillips) words of encouragement. May God reward him abundantly!  
—MICHAEL, KENYA

Thank God you are publishing such a heart-throbbing Scripture, which enlightens our hearts. Your hard work shows us how to find and accept our Lord. I would like to know more.  
—SURENDRA, INDIA

## THROUGH A TRACT

I am a 24-year-old female Ugandan who came across "True Love, Forever Love" by picking it up along the road some few months ago. I kept it for some time without reading it. In December 2002 I was so distressed. I felt all alone; every member of my family had turned against me. On reading this message tears rolled down from my eyes as I wept bitterly. I imagined other people facing the same situation, including total rejection. Some young people can't even afford education or support their families. I had to photocopy as many as I could [of this tract] to share the same message with others. It has been a medicine to the souls of many people.

I really loved this quotation that says, "I love you as if you were the only one. You're not lost in a faceless crowd called humanity, you're not just one of the billions but you are special and unique to Me."

I pray that I may work together with you to change the world and show them the true love forever love. Could you please send me more about you?

—MARCIE, UGANDA

It is a great pleasure for me to read the information about God's love for me. I read about "True Love, Forever Love," and the message was for me! I was worried about my life and studies. I was wondering how my future would be. But I just want to thank God for the message He gave me. It was really a blessing to me!

I would like to get more information about Jesus' love for me that I may be able to stand strong, because I am not so close to my church, so I don't get anything like counseling. Through your message I will be in a position to get it.

—NALUGO, UGANDA

The news and views from Family members published in the *Grapevine* do not necessarily reflect WS policy. Suggested reading age for this publication is 14 years and up. Selected portions may be read by or with those younger at parents' or shepherds' discretion. All Family members in China use pen names for their contributions to the *Grapevine*. The *Grapevine*, P.O. Box 500107, San Diego, CA 92150-0107 USA e-mail: [gv@wsfamily.com](mailto:gv@wsfamily.com) Copyright © 2003 by The Family